

Week Ending Friday, February 19, 1993

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Economic Policy Group

February 13, 1993

The Budget

Q. What's on the agenda, Mr. President?

The President. We're working on the budget. You know what we're doing. [*Laughter*]

Q. Still?

Q. —all the decisions, sir?

The President. No, otherwise I wouldn't be asking them to meet on Saturday. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. President, have you heard anything from the lawmakers that would cause you to change your mind on any policies that you intend to propose?

The Vice President. That's kind of a broad question anyway. [*Laughter*]

The President. I've gotten a lot of good advice from them, a lot of good ideas. I've basically just been asking them for their ideas, not only in the meetings here but in telephone calls. And I've gotten some good suggestions, some of which we've been able to incorporate.

Q. How long do you think you're going to have to work?

The President. I'm going to work a while today and a while tomorrow and a while—

Q. You playing golf today?

The President. It doesn't look like it. It's warmer today, though, isn't it?

Q. A little wet.

The President. I knew as soon as I decided not to play golf it would warm up.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:35 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 13, 1993

Space Program

Q. Mr. President, what kind of concerns are you hearing from congressional leaders?

The President. I think they want me to give them a good, credible program, and one that will get the economy—

Q. Will you be cutting the space station, Mr. President?

The President. Tune in Wednesday. Before I discuss any specifics—I support—I think you all know I've always been a big supporter of NASA and the space program and the technologies it can represent. I think that people who care about that will be pleased by the recommendations we make.

Somalia

Q. Will the troops be coming home from Somalia?

The Vice President. Thanks for coming to the photo op. [*Laughter*]

Q. Will the troops be coming home from Somalia, sir, by April?

The President. Well, I'm encouraged by what the Secretary-General said today. This does need to go from a U.S. mission from a U.N. mission. I never thought we could do it. Even though I think President Bush hoped we could, I never thought we could do it by the end of January. And I'm hopeful, by the timetable he has suggested today. And I'll do some work on that Monday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:25 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.